

**FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
May 20, 2019  
Fort Lee High School Media Center  
6:45 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mrs. Han Silver.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Ms. Cho.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Fort Lee Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published on January 16, 2019 and posted in the entrance hall of the Board Office, 2175 Lemoine Avenue; published in the Board's designated online media outlet/newspaper: The Record and the Gold Coast Life; filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Fort Lee; and mailed to all persons, if any, who have requested said notice. Please be advised that this meeting is being taped and will be broadcasted on local TV and the district's website at a future date.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Ms. Elisa Cho, Ms. Paula K. Colbath (6:55 p.m.), Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mrs. Esther Han Silver

**Absent:** Mrs. Lauran Tuck

**Also Present:** Mr. Kenneth Rota, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mr. Dennis McKeever, Attorney

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mrs. Romba, at 6:47 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:28 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota shared that there were ten (10) HIB investigations. Four (4) were founded.

Mr. Rota shared that the Fire and Security Drills for April 2019 have been posted for the Board's review.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Negotiations Committee – Mr. DiMeglio shared that the negotiations committee met about non-affiliated staff and discussed preliminaries.

Mrs. Morell shared that she and Ms. Colbath went to the Delegate's Assembly meeting; The meeting was very spirited. She shared that the assembly voted down a resolution regarding allocation of school funding by the State.

Security Committee – Mr. Rubino shared that a new Chief of Police was appointed.

Student Representative, Ian Gilenson, gave a summary report on some of the Fort Lee High School events.

- Acting classes had a showcase where they performed. The performance counts for their finals.
- Track has sectionals.
- Tennis finished its regular season. Fort Lee tennis will be facing Summit in the State tournament.
- AOF students will be participating in the annual Career Day where they will be introduced to workers in all fields of business.
- The sophomore and junior class are hosting fundraisers to raise money for several events that are coming up.
- Sophomores are having a dodgeball tournament on May 30, 2019 and juniors are having a volleyball tournament.
- Prom is rapidly approaching and the Athletes Dinner is coming up on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

None.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN**

MOTION by Ms. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to open the floor to the public, 7:38 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Julianne Chin, School No. 3 student, shared displeasure with temperature in school.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to close the floor to the public, 7:40 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**BOARD**

- 1B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the following **minutes**:

Public Business Meeting Minutes	May 6, 2019
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	May 6, 2019

- 2B WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education has received the Superintendent's report of **incident(s) of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying ("HIB")** within the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has had the opportunity to review the Superintendent's recommendations with respect to the incident(s) of HIB.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(d), the Superintendent of Schools shall inform the applicable parents/guardians of the students involved in these incidents with the following information within five school (5) days of this Board meeting:

1. The nature of the investigation;
2. Whether the District found evidence of HIB;
3. Whether discipline was imposed;
4. Whether services were provided to address the incident of HIB.

- 3B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the **attendance of Board Members at the following workshops**:

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>AMOUNT PER PERSON</u>
Bergen County Spring Meeting	Thursday, May 30, 2019	Ralph DiMeglio Michael Rubino	Holiday Inn 283 NJ-17 Hasbrouck Heights, NJ	-0-

- 4B** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the **attendance and travel expenditures for administration and board members to attend the New Jersey School Boards Annual Workshop** not to exceed \$1,000 per attendee (as per the GSA maximums):

Attendees	Workshop	Date
Nine Board Members	NJSBA Annual Workshop	October 21 – October 24, 2019
Up to Four Administrators	NJSBA Annual Workshop	October 21 – October 24, 2019

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #4B.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, with exception. Ms. Colbath abstained on item #1B. Mr. DiMeglio and Mr. Rubino abstained on their names on item #3B.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- 1B&G** **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education authorizes the continued use of **Temporary Instructional Space** at the following elementary schools, **for the 2019-2020 school year**.

**School No. 1    Rooms 100 and 105**  
**School No. 4    Room 13 (Media Center)**

- 2B&G** **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education authorizes the continued use of **alternate method of compliance of Toilet Room facilities** at the following elementary schools, **for the 2019-2020 school year**.

**School No. 2    Room 212**  
**School No. 2    Room 213**  
**School No. 3    Rooms 111 and 119**  
**School No. 4    Rooms 4, 6 and 10**

- 3B&G** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following change order:

**CHANGE**  
**ORDER**  
**SUMMARY SHEET**  
**PROJECT NO. 14-8231**

**OWNER**            Fort Lee BOE  
**ARCHITECT**      SSP Architectural Group  
**CONTRACTOR** Dobco, Inc.

**PROJECT:**      Fort Lee Board of Education  
                     Additions and Alterations Phase 2  
                     Lewis F. Cole Middle School

**Date:**    February 7- April 9, 2019

CONTRACTOR	C.O. NO.	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	AMT APPLIED TO ALLOWANCE
Dobco, Inc.	22	PCO#00087 – Remake Doors Frames Response PCO#00096 – Stair #2 Horizontal Shaftwall	\$1,943.85	\$2,253.63
Dobco, Inc.	23 (REVISED)	PCO#00085 – Added GWB Soffit PCO#00094 – Bulletin #12 PCO#00098 – Added Brick Window Blocking	\$10,293.17	\$0.00
Dobco, Inc.	24	PCO#00099 – RFI#00309 Grease Duct Insulation	\$33,895.50	\$0.00
Dobco, Inc.	25	PCO#00079 – Rev. 1 RFI#00242 Knee Wall Support PCO#00086 – GWB Top Fill RFI 00296 & 00298	\$35,790.91	\$0.00
Dobco, Inc.	26	PCO#00074 – Rev.2 ST-1&2 Shaftwall	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dobco, Inc.	27	PCO#00097 – RFI #302 GWB Fascia-wood blocking Rev.01	\$6,077.46	\$0.00
Dobco, Inc.	28	PCO#00102 RFI #288 Added blocking FS-A071	\$1,706.46	\$0.00

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B&G through #3B&G.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

### **CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

**1CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **class trips** listed in the attached summary. [See Appendix Page 11](#)

**2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **establishment of a Special Education Program for Behavioral Disabilities for Grades 1-2** at Fort Lee Public Schools for the 2019-2020 school year for submission to the Bergen County Supervisor of Child Study. [See Appendix Page 12](#)

**3CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **additional out-of-district placements for the 2018-2019 school year**:

Student	Placement	Dates	Tuition/Costs
#3746895425	Shrub Oak 3151 Stoney Street Mohegan Lake, NY 10547 (Transferring from one residential placement to another.)	6/3/19 – 6/30/19	Annual tuition cost of \$254,000.00, prorated to \$21,167.00 (monthly fee).
#21050312	Fusion Academy 10 Sterling Blvd., Suite 201 Englewood, NJ 07671	4/1/2019 to 6/28/19	Annual tuition cost of \$65,643.40, prorated to \$19,693.00. Transportation cost of \$1,741.55 (61 days @ \$28.55 per diem).

MOTION by Mrs. Richter, seconded by Ms. Colbath, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR through #3CUR.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

**FINANCE**

- 1F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, has received and accepts the **financial reports of the Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for the month ending March 2019** and certifies that the reports indicate that no major account or fund is over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the school year. [See Appendix Page TBD](#)
- 2F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, confirms the **line item transfers for the month of March 2019**. In order to accomplish the aforesaid purpose, the Business Administrator was authorized to transfer the amount of money into and out of the line items set forth on the attached schedule. [See Appendix Page TBD](#)
- 3F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of the claims on the current **bills list in the amount of \$8,698,498.95 for May 2019 checks**. [See Appendix Page 15](#)
- 4F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of the claims on the current **Cafeteria bills list in the amount of \$198,621.94 for May 2019 checks**. [See Appendix Page 35](#)
- 5F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following **donations**:

Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of
Check	\$53.80	Box Tops for Education	School No. 4 school supplies and/or resources
Laminator	\$1,746.50	School No. 3 PTA	School No. 3
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$1,800.30</b>		

- 6F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Schedule of Local Tax Levy for the 2019-2020 school year in the amount of \$69,783,083.00**. [See Appendix Page 36](#)
- 7F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **termination of the contract with AEGIS Security Agency, LLC**, effective June 30, 2019.

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #7F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

**PERSONNEL**

- 1P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attendance of staff members at the **staff trips/conferences** listed on the attached summary. [See Appendix Page 37](#)
- 2P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amended effective date** for the following **resignation**:

<b><u>Resignations</u></b>			
<b>Employee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amended Effective Date</b>
Klarissa Martin	Teacher Special Education English	FLHS	6/6/19

- 3P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **appointments for the 2019-2020 school year**, pending verification of employment:

<b><u>APPOINTMENTS</u></b>						
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Position Control #</b>	<b>Annual Salary (Pending Negotiations)</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Brianna	Mattessich	Physical Education/Health Teacher	S2	02-1630-02	\$56,530.00 Step 2/BA	9/1/19
Salome	Gonzalez	Behaviorist	S2/ CST	02-3125-01	\$84,230.00 Step 10/MA+60	9/1/19

- 4P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **amended appointment for the 2018-2019 school year**:

<b><u>APPOINTMENTS</u></b>						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary	Effective Date
Renee	Mattessich	PT Paraprofessional (.83)	S4	04-9101-44	\$21,019.00	9/1/18

- 5P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **leaves**:

<b><u>LEAVES</u></b>								
Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amended	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Randy Schwartz	Grade 1 Teacher	S4	Federal Family Leave	New	N/A	5/10/19 to 6/30/19	N/A	9/1/19
Rachel Ventrella	Grade 3 Teacher	S4	Maternity	Amended	9/24/18 to 1/14/19	1/15/19 to 6/30/19	N/A	9/1/19
Maria Ibelli Castano	Media Specialist	S2	Medical	Amended	4/18/19 to 5/5/19	N/A	N/A	5/6/19
Amanda Schroeder	Speech Language Specialist	S2	Maternity	Amended	3/13/19 to 5/27/19	5/28/19 to 10/31/19	N/A	11/1/19
Joseph Cappellini	Custodian	MS	Medical	New	5/10/19 to 5/27/19	N/A	N/A	5/28/19
Stefanie Katic	Math Teacher	MS	Maternity	New	N/A	9/1/19 to 12/8/19	N/A	12/9/19



- 6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **leave replacements** during the 2018-2019 school year, as outlined below:

<b><u>LEAVE REPLACEMENTS</u></b>					
Name	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Briana Shuki	Grade 3	04	Sub pay for the first 10 days \$100 per day, day 11-60 \$110 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	Amended Work Days: 9/25/18 to 6/30/19	Rachel Ventrella Maternity Leave

- 7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **salary adjustment for the following teaching staff member** for the 2018-2019 school year, effective September 1, 2018.

Name	Loc	From	To	New Salary
Jennifer Quesada	S2	Teacher Spec Ed ASD G2-3 @ Step 1, MA \$59,530.00 (previously approved on R#29181 dated 8/13/18)	Teacher Spec Ed ASD G2-3 Step 1, MA + 10 due to review of official transcripts	\$60,530.00

- 8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **transfer during the 2018-2019 school year**:

<b><u>Transfers</u></b>						
Name	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change	Effective Date
Ivana Tandara	S1	PT Paraprofessional (.83)	S2	PT Paraprofessional (.83)	N/A	5/13/19

- 9P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **2019 Summer Employment for the Guidance Department** for the following staff members:

First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	# of Days Not to Exceed	Daily Rate	Stipend Not to Exceed
Diana	Acosta	School Counselor	HS	6	\$565.33	\$3,391.98
Debbie	Brigida	School Counselor	MS	4	\$583.26	\$2,333.04
Gabrielle	Brown	School Counselor	HS	6	\$328.65	\$1,971.90
Laura	Caddell	School Counselor	HS	6	\$460.15	\$2,760.90
David	Cuozzo	Student Asst Counselor	HS	6	\$401.50	\$2,409.00
Tara	Lawlor	School Counselor	HS	6	\$413.65	\$2,481.90
Luddy	Serulle	School Counselor	HS	6	\$494.90	\$2,969.40
Angela	Waack	School Counselor	MS	4	\$313.15	\$1,252.60

- 10P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **2019 Summer Employment of Child Study Team** staff members, as outlined below:

Summer 2019 CST Case Management Staff					
First Name	Last Name	Position	# of Hours Not to Exceed	Hourly Rate	Stipend Not to Exceed
Daniel	Bialik	Psychologist	42	\$74.85	\$3,143.70
Stephanie	Borgono	Social Worker	42	\$54.45	\$2,286.90
Lorraine	Bortnick	Psychologist	42	\$64.45	\$2,706.90
Kirsten	Buerkle	Speech	24	\$75.74	\$1,817.76
Rachel	Cola-Suter	Psychologist	42	\$59.10	\$2,482.20
Carmela	DeMaio-Can	LDTC	42	\$51.03	\$2,143.26
Christina	Fitzsimmons	Social Worker	60	\$63.38	\$3,802.80
Rachel	Healy	Special Ed Teacher	15	\$45.00	\$675.00
Karli	Jewett	LDTC	42	\$53.74	\$2,257.08
Sarah	Levy	LDTC	42	\$58.03	\$2,437.26
Marilyn	Lopez	LDTC	42	\$72.85	\$3,059.70
Reina	Proto	Psychologist	42	\$53.88	\$2,262.96
Paola	Ramirez	Psychologist	42	\$45.00	\$1,890.00
Christina	Ranaudo	LDTC	42	\$60.03	\$2,521.26
Christine	Romano	Speech	24	\$81.90	\$1,965.60
Pamela	Rothman	Psychologist	42	\$70.17	\$2,947.14
Michelle	Schramm	OT	24	\$75.74	\$1,817.76
Adam	Schussler	OT	24	\$45.00	\$1,080.00

- 11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of the 2019 Extended School Year (ESY) Summer Program Related Service Providers staffing**, based upon IEP needs and pending adequate/appropriate enrollment, as follows:

First Name	Last Name	Position	# of Hours Not to Exceed	Hourly Rate	Stipend Not to Exceed
Johanna	Barrabee	Speech	48	\$66.60	\$3,196.80
Kirsten	Buerkle	Speech	48	\$75.74	\$3,635.52
Christine	Romano	Speech	48	\$81.90	\$3,931.20
Michelle	Schramm	OT	48	\$75.74	\$3,635.52
Adam	Schussler	OT	48	\$45.00	\$2,160.00

- 12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **2019 Summer Employment of Joanne Chack for 80 hours of Braille translation** at \$30 per hour for student ID #25070080.
- 13P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the **2019 Extended School Year Summer Program Staff**, based upon IEP needs and pending adequate/appropriate enrollment, as indicated on the attached list. [See Appendix Page 38](#)
- 14P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Affirmative Action Team** to review the district's needs assessment and complete the Comprehensive Equity Plan for the 2019 - 2022 school years.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #14P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Colbath shared a report from Mrs. Tuck and herself on the Legislative Committee of New Jersey School Boards. They met on May 11<sup>th</sup> in Trenton. The former Supreme Court Justice from New Jersey sued State of New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) for desegregation. If liability is founded, legislators will have to take action. There was a similar case in Connecticut (Hartford is being forced to desegregate).

Also, there was a standard update that they do on legislation and the biggest thing was that Governor Murphy signed a bill that expanded statute of limitations for sexual abuse cases. Formerly, victims could sue up to the age of 20. This was extended to the age of 55.

Mr. Rota recommended reviewing the 2019-2020 District Calendar to move the opening date from September 5<sup>th</sup> to September 9<sup>th</sup>. Board conversation ensued about calendar changes to accommodate a later school opening, Easter Monday and Passover.

Ms. Colbath shared that Mayor Sokolich approached her about potentially doing an advisory committee between the Board of Education and the Mayor and Council (a non-binding liaison committee which will be a mechanism to have an open dialogue). Board conversation ensued about this communication.

Mrs. Han Silver shared that at end of April, everyone should have received an email from Matt Lee about the Superintendent's evaluation and to please complete it by Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Han Silver also shared that the Lewis F. Cole Middle School had an exciting Play 60 program where on multiple days they had NFL football players coming in doing activities with the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Mrs. Han Silver commended Mrs. Tuck for bringing this program to the school. Ms. Colbath asked if as a Board we can do a handwritten thanks.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to adjourn, 8:00 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Haquisha Q. Taylor*

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**HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR**  
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/mo  
05-24-19